

MAR 25 2014

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@oterogov.org>
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 5:12 PM
To: Tom Wheeler
Subject: In regard to the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services (WC Docket No. 12-375)

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Importance: High

Honorable Tom Wheeler,

The FCC Order mandates a "one-size-fits-all" approach to regulating inmate calling services for both prisons and jails. The Order fails to take into account the unique challenges inherent in providing calling services to the majority of the nation's jails that are small in size and have high turnover of inmate populations weekly. Inmate calling systems are built to the unique needs of each jail and provide a variety of important safety and security components. The Order disregards this reality and creates a regulatory environment that jeopardizes these services. Many jails may be forced to severely limit or eliminate inmate calling privileges.

The FCC has recognized in its Order that jails incur real costs to administer inmate calling services; however, the rates set by the FCC eliminate commissions to jails on inter-state calls and do not include any allowance for cost recovery for jails. A STAY must be granted for jails until such time as the FCC and Sheriffs can determine a proper method for jails to recover these costs. Because Sheriff's Office budgets are already set for 2014, many Sheriffs will not have the financial resources necessary to continue to administer inmate calling services and perform the vital security functions required to protect the public. The Otero County Sheriff's Office budget is set for 2014, and if we incur costs because of this mandate, we will end phone service for the inmates. I urge you in the strongest way to stay this ruling.

Thank you,

Chris Johnson

Otero County Sheriff, La Junta, CO

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